

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to change the multiple dependent claims to single dependent claims in order to reduce the government filing fee. Applicants have amended the specification to add a cross-reference to a related application. The amendments do not contain any new matter.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label #EV342538791 US) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 16, 2004 :

Dorothy Jenkins

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

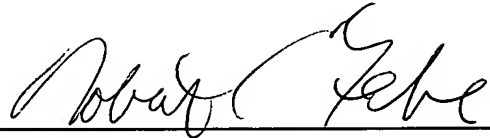

Signature

December 16, 2004

Date of Signature

RCF:sjw

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700